Irregularities with the Directorate of Hydrocarbons

4394. SHRI DEVDAS APTE; Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any report of irregularities and disputes regarding the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what action Government have taken so far against those who are responsible for these irregularities; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to correct the irregularities and disputes to retain the transparency of the Directorate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. A complaint has been received through Central Vigilance Commission.

(b) to (d) The Government has contemplated to institute an enquiry into the matter.

Bottling plants in Rajasthan

†4395. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bottling plants in Rajasthan and whether there is any plan to set up new bottling plants there; and

(b) the area covered by one bottling plant for the purpose of supply of cylinders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) As on 1.4.2007, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are operating 12 LPG bottling

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

plants in the State of Rajasthan with a total bottling capacity of 452 Thousand Metric Tonnes Per Annum (TMTPA). LPG Bottling plants are set up by OMCs on the basis of techno-economic feasibility after taking into considerationthe demand potential of packed LPG of the area. At present, OMCs have no plan to set up new LPG bottling plants in the State of Rajasthan as the available bottling capacity is adequate to meet the LPG demand of their customers in the State.

(b) OMCs have reported that the area covered by one LPG bottling plant is generally governed by following factors:

(i) Proximity to bulk LPG source,

(ii) Proximity to markets,

(iii) Capacity of bottling plant,

(iv) Bulk/packed transportation cost.

(v) Operating cost of bottling plant.

Most of the markets covered by the bottling plants in Rajasthan are within a radius of 200 to 300 Kms.

Adulteration in petrol and diesel

4396. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that adulteration of petrol and diesel is taking place on a very large scale in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to check the same; and

(c) the total loss caused to the exchequer in the past three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) The possibility of adulteration of petrol/diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between petrol/diesel and various adulterants available in the market and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol/diesel.

While, as per a recent study conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research to assess the genuine demand and requirement of kerosene, siphoning off of kerosene from PDS to non-household